



Joint Commission on Technology and Science

May 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Electronic Meeting

<http://dls.virginia.gov/commission/jcots.htm>

The Joint Commission on Technology and Science (the Commission) met virtually with Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr., chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's meetings webpage](#).

Workgroup Updates

Delegate Hayes

The Data Privacy & Protection advisory committee concluded its work in November of 2019. Delegate Hayes and Senator Marsden introduced HB 2307 and SB 1392 (2021, Special Session I). The Chairman dissolved this advisory committee, and a new work group will be formed pursuant to the second enactment of HB 2307 and SB 1392 (2021, Special Session I) to study findings, best practices, and recommendations prior to the January 2023 implementation of the Act. The remaining advisory committees will be meeting during the 2021 interim session.

Presentation: Wing

Nick Devereux, Policy and Government Affairs, Wing (an Alphabet Company)

Mr. Devereux presented on the work Wing, a subsidiary of Alphabet, is doing in drone delivery. Currently, Wing is operating a pilot program, the only one of its kind in the country, delivering consumer goods directly to homes in Christiansburg, Virginia. Members asked about measures to insure package delivery and protect consumer privacy. Mr. Devereux explained that several measures are built into the app to protect customer credit card information. Additionally, the drone pilot system is run autonomously and monitored by a pilot communicating with the drone to find the most efficient route. Finally, he highlighted Wing's commitment to locally train and hire drone operators and customer service representatives through a partnership with Virginia Tech. Mr. Devereux concluded the presentation by reiterating the company's desire to train and hire Virginians in the area by emphasizing current negotiations with New River Community College to structure a curriculum designed to train students for new opportunities at Wing.

Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Study Update

Dr. Jon Goodall, University of Virginia, co-chair, Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (VASEM) Coastal Flooding Study Committee

Dr. Goodall reported on the Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding study commissioned by JCOTS in December of 2019. He stated that five meetings were held in 2020 to outline a draft

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr. (chair), Senator Adam P. Ebbin (vice-chair), Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr., Senator Barbara A. Favola, Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Senator David W. Marsden, Delegate Terry L. Austin, Delegate Hala S. Ayala, Delegate Kathy J. Byron, Delegate Glenn R. Davis, Delegate Kenneth R. Plum, Delegate Danica A. Roem

Members Absent: None

report. The final report will highlight recommendations and specific policy decisions to consider implementing within the Commonwealth. Members inquired whether public hearings would be incorporated in preparing the report. Dr. Goodall noted the Committee's approach is modeled after studies by the National Academies of Science which, by design, do not include a public comment process. He specified that the report would be designed to succinctly report the science of sea level rise and coastal flooding. Dr. Goodall anticipates the final draft of the report to be complete by January 31, 2021.

Next Meeting

The Commission will reconvene later this summer. The meeting will be virtual until further notice.

For more information, see the [*Commission's website*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

Hassan Abdelhalim, Attorney, DLS
habdelhalim@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1868

David Barry, Attorney, DLS
dbarry@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1865

